

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
memorandum

DATE: August 8, 1989

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: ARD-Refuges and Wildlife, FWS, Atlanta, GA (WHM)

SUBJECT: Regional Fire Dispatch Plan

TO: All Refuge Managers, FWS, Region 4

Attached is an updated version of the Regional Fire Dispatch Plan. The plan outlines the proper procedures to use when requesting help during an emergency fire situation.

The procedures are relatively simple and straightforward, but should you have any questions on implementation, please call Skippy Reeves at FTS 242-0830 or commercial 404/331-0830.

Harold W. Benson

Attachment

cc:
All Refuge Supervisors (1-3)

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ST. VINCENT NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

A. Introduction

The purpose of this plan is to detail the proper procedures for obtaining emergency help during wildfire suppression. With the 1240 Fund there is no reason for any refuge to go without manpower or equipment in an emergency fire situation. Many refuges currently have contracts with the State divisions of forestry and they should be the first source of help. We also have a nationwide agreement with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and all Department of the Interior agencies to furnish assistance during wildfire suppression with no cross-agency charges. If personnel and/or equipment are furnished for presuppression, the benefiting agency will be charged.

The objective of this plan is to ensure the cost efficient use of available fire support services. In most cases the closest resource will be used, but consideration will be given to the use of distant resources to avoid excessive commitments from units with critical fire weather or suppression activities.

B. Procedures for Requesting Support

If a wildfire exceeds your suppression capabilities, you should request assistance in the following sequence:

- a. State Division of Forestry. Your local Division of Forestry is the first place you should go for assistance.
- b. Neighboring Refuges. If your State Division of Forestry is unable to assist you, aid from nearby refuges should be solicited. If the neighboring unit is unable to respond, call the Regional Fire Management Coordinator.
- c. Regional Fire Management Coordinator (RFMC), Skippy Reeves, or Alternate Howard Poitevint.

Office:	(404) 331-0830	(Commercial)
	242-0830	(FTS)
Home:	(404) 972-0616	Reeves
	(404) 979-8495	Poitevint

The RFMC will attempt to obtain help from other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service installations in the Region. If help is not available internally, the RFMC will authorize you to request help from the U.S. Forest Service Region 8 Dispatch Center in Atlanta, Georgia. If your fire occurs OUTSIDE NORMAL WORKING HOURS AND YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONTACT THE RFMC OR ALTERNATE, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE REGION 8 DISPATCH CENTER WITH YOUR REQUEST.

- d. U.S. Forest Service, Region 8 Dispatch Center, Lynn Thomas, Regional Coordinator or Joe Kelley, Dept. of Interior Dispatcher.

Office: 257-4243 (FTS)

(404) 347-4243 (24-hour Answering Service)

(404) 690-9637 Digital Pager for Joe Kelley
(At tone dial: Area Code
plus phone number; then
number (#) key. Joe Kelley
will return your call.)

The Region 8 Dispatch Center will obtain the necessary personnel and/or equipment for you from the closest available source. The source may be the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, or even contract, but they will find what you need. If your needs are not available in the Southern Region, the Region 8 dispatcher will make a Fire Order request to the Boise Interagency Fire Center (BIFC). The only time you should contact BIFC Logistics Support directly would be if you are unable to contact Region 8 Dispatch.

- e. BIFC Logistics Support

Office: (208) 389-2400 (Commercial)
554-2400 (FTS)

Once again, the only time you should contact BIFC directly is if for some reason you are unable to contact the Region 8 Dispatch Center.

C. Notification of Associate Manager

The respective Associate managers need to be kept informed of large fire situations at all times. If you are working through the RFMC, he will keep the responsible refuge supervisor informed. However, if you are working through your State Division of Forestry or Region 8 Dispatch, you should inform your supervisor at the earliest opportunity. You do not need to go through your supervisor when requesting assistance, but as soon as the situation allows you should contact him. The associate manager's home telephone numbers are:

Bill Grabill	(404) 487-2481
Sam Drake	(404) 972-2009
Jim Matthews	(404) 631-0311